

Success Story 4

Mohamed Aly Hassan Osman: Humble But Holds Grand Dreams

Mohamed Aly Hassan Osman is a man of humble beginnings but with a bright future. Osman holds a Diploma in Social Services from Beni Suef University. Even though his dream of becoming a film-director was not realized, he persevered in order to tread another path. Having been forced into pursuing social services as per his degree, he found himself being stirred towards developmental projects.



Ergo, his first step towards building a career in development was as a facilitator of a social solidarity group in his hometown, Beni Suef. The project aimed to inform as well as educate the youth about employment opportunities and productivity enhancement methods. By way of empowering others, he was also empowered. After he became aware of his capacity to make a difference in other people's lives, he immediately felt the growth in his confidence and self-esteem. Before his experience in facilitation, his self-perception was like millions of Egyptian youth who feel victimized by their socioeconomic realities and dwarfed by their low quality education.

Having realized his self-worth, Osman went on to participate in several initiatives including Enactus Egypt and TEDx Talks. These experiences enhanced his networking and team work skills even further. Hence, he took the daring step of applying for a more competitive position at the CRISP CDS Simulating Egyptian Transition (SET I). However, he was unsuccessful in his efforts to join. Nonetheless, he later applied for CRISP CDS project - Simulating the Egyptian Transition (SET II) and got accepted.

By the end of his participation in the simulation gaming sessions, he understood clearly the importance of setting goals and working towards achieving such objectives. As opposed to his previous nonchalant attitude towards his future, he is now in better command of his life. He is developing a plan to open his own development foundation; which will provide him with the freedom and space to grow as well as help others become better versions of themselves.

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Nevertheless, his contribution to bettering the sessions was quite grand. He enjoyed switching lives with other people; which allowed him to see the world from varied angles. In addition, simulation gaming also provided him with a temporary identity and by extension it enabled him to conceal his own identity;

which gave him a unique opportunity to express himself freely with little to no considerations of what people may think of him.

However, he highlighted the possible side effects of losing one's self in a character. He explained further by pointing to the time following the conclusion of the workshops. He described it saying "I was so stressed and I could not figure out why. I simply was not myself." He also suggested a remedy to get rid of the stress resulting from participants getting caught up in negative emotions. He proposed the inclusion of support groups in the final sessions whereby the participants would reach catharsis, thus discarding all traces of negative energy that they may have picked up during the sessions.

Finally, he expressed his gratitude to CDS and CRISP for granting him the chance to take part in such a life-altering experience and said that he hopes to see the simulation gaming methodology being implemented on a bigger scale.